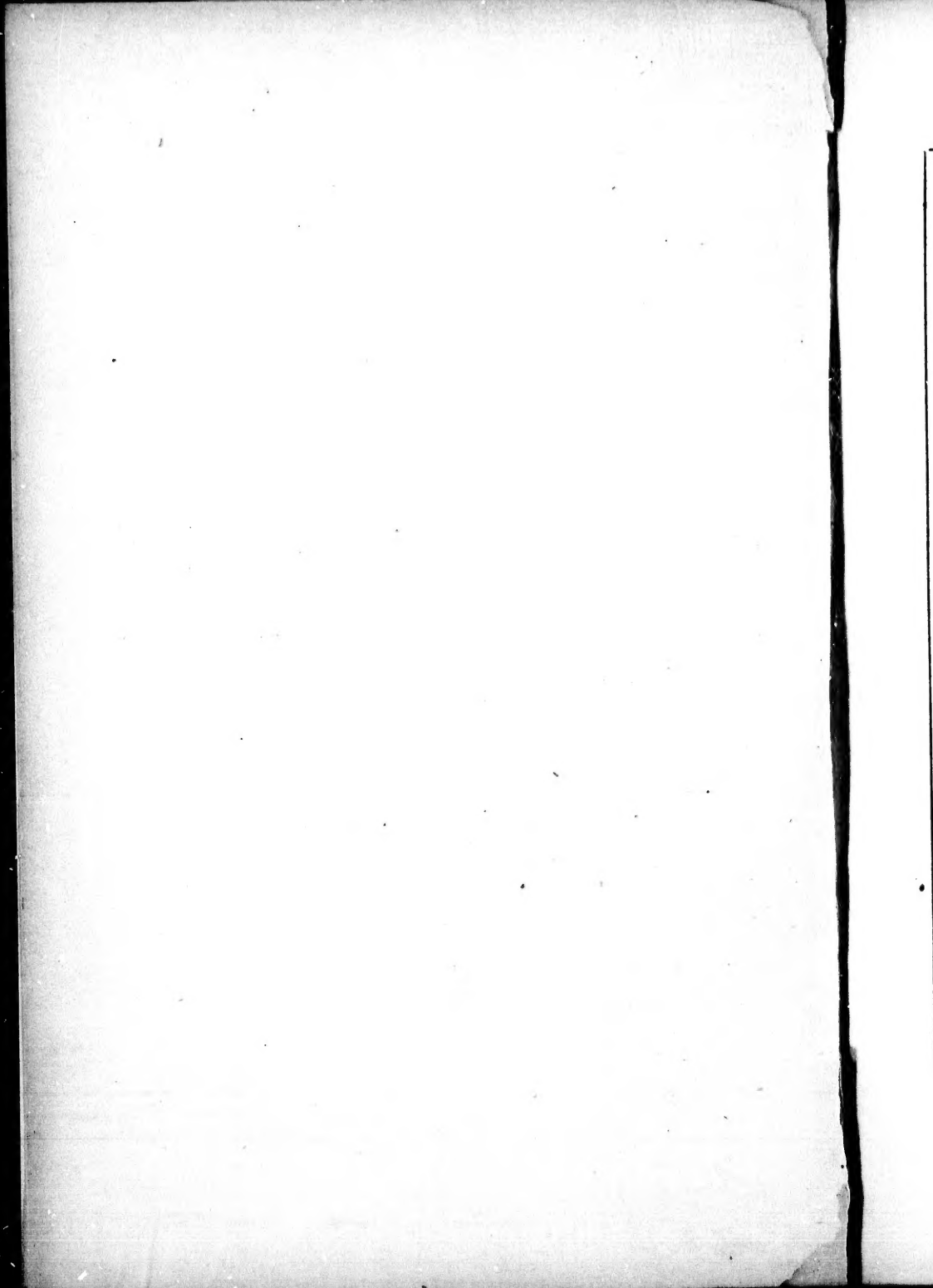
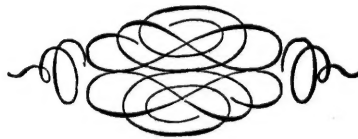




COPIES
OF
L E T T E R S,
ADDRESSED TO THE
HONORABLE P. M^CGILL,
ON
VARIOUS OCCASIONS,
BY
SUCCESSIVE GOVERNORS, &c.



MONTREAL :
PRINTED BY J. C. BECKET, 22 GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.
1851.

LETTERS, &c.

No. I.

*From His Excellency the Right Honorable
LORD AYLMER, Governor-General, &c.*

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS,
QUEBEC, Dec. 8, 1831.

Private.

MY DEAR SIR,

For some time past I have been extremely desirous of seeing you in a situation to take a more prominent part than you have hitherto done in the Public Affairs of Lower Canada ; and I gladly take advantage of an opportunity which now presents itself of giving the Legislative Council the advantage of reckoning you amongst its members, provided it be not inconsistent with your views to belong to that branch of the Legislature.

In a List which I am about to transmit to the

Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, of Gentlemen recommended by me to be appointed Members of the Legislative Council, your name is included, with a remark that this has been done without previously consulting your wishes on the subject, but that being aware of your being in England, it was my intention to write to you, requesting you would be so good as to communicate with Lord Goderich, and make his Lordship acquainted with your decision. This I now request of you to do at your earliest convenience ; and I shall only add, that it will be highly gratifying to me to find that that decision is in accordance with my wishes.

I remain, my dear sir,

With great esteem,

Your very faithful servant,

(Signed) AYLMER.

Peter McGill, Esq., &c., &c.

No. II.

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS,
QUEBEC, June 6, 1832.

Private.

DEAR SIR,

I return you many thanks for your obliging Letter which accompanied the

Despatches, of which you were the bearer, from the Colonial Office. Allow me to offer you congratulations on your safe return to Canada, &c.

Should circumstances bring Mrs. McGill and yourself to Quebec, I hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing you both at the Chateau.

The Emigrants are pouring in upon us in vast numbers daily, and from the reports which have reached me, as to the wealth and respectability of a large proportion of them, I am led to think that the Emigration, or rather Immigration, of the present year will be attended with the most important results, in regard to the prosperity of the two Canadas.

Believe me to be, my dear sir,

With great regard,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) AYLMER.

The Honble. Peter McGill.

No. III.

CASTLE ST. LEWIS,
QUEBEC, July 28, 1832.

Private.

MY DEAR SIR,

I received yesterday your letter of the 25th instant, which should have been

answered without a moment's delay, had it been post day. The information you are desirous of obtaining in regard to my opinion on the subject of the British American Land Company, under the restriction of secrecy, would perhaps be of little value, if communicated on such conditions. I request, therefore, that you will consider yourself at liberty to state, without reserve, that neither officially or privately, to the Colonial Department, or to any individual, either here or on the other side of the Atlantic, have I expressed any opinion unfavorable to the formation or objects of that Company.

This, I trust, will be sufficient to meet your views on the subject. I should fain hope that the inflammatory speeches reported in the newspapers, as having been delivered at certain meetings, in different parts of the country, will fail of producing any effect at Home. Here, where we are behind the scenes, and are acquainted with all the miserable machinery by means of which these things are brought about, they are only calculated to excite contempt.

I remain, my dear sir,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) AYLMER.

The Honorable Peter McGill.

No. IV.

CASTLE ST. LEWIS,
QUEBEC, May 11, 1833.

Private.

MY DEAR SIR,

The Surveyor-General and the Commissioner of Crown Lands are both engaged in preparing the necessary documents to enable me to furnish His Majesty's Government with the information required of me regarding the Negotiations with the Lower Canada Land Company; and matters are so advanced as to make it desirable that I should be furnished, with as little delay as possible, with such observations as you may think it necessary to offer on the part of the Company. I write, therefore, to apprise you that I am now ready to receive from you, either personally or by letter, any communication on the subject which you may think proper.

(Signed) AYLMER.

To the Honble. P. McGill.

No. V.

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS,
QUEBEC, May 22, 1833.

Private.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have received your Letter, marked private, of the 18th inst., with your

memoranda, to assist in determining a wholesale price for the waste Lands of the Crown in Lower Canada. I have also obtained from the Surveyor-General and the Commissioner of Crown Lands all the necessary information to enable me to make my Report, as required, to His Majesty's Government. This I have just completed, and if both parties are sincere in their desire to come to an understanding in regard to the price and other particulars, as I have no doubt they are, the negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the British American Land Company may soon be brought to a favorable termination. I sincerely wish that such may be the result, being thoroughly persuaded that the establishment of the British American Land Company is calculated to benefit this Colony in a very eminent degree. Such has been my opinion from the commencement of the negotiation, although I have not until now felt myself at liberty to declare it. We leave Quebec to-morrow for Sorel, where we purpose passing the greater part of the summer. Should you have occasion to pass that way, I hope you will let us have the pleasure of seeing you.

I remain, my dear sir,

Your very faithful servant,

(Signed)

AYLMER.

The Honorable Peter McGill.

No. VI.

Christmas-day, 1833.

MY DEAR SIR,

It gives me much concern to learn that you have been suffering from severe indisposition. When you answer the Letter which accompanies these few lines, pray let me have a *Bulletin* of your health. With our best regards to Mrs. McGill, who I dare say is a very good nurse in a sick room,

Pray, believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) AYLMER.

Pray accept for yourself and Mrs. McGill the *compliments of the season.*

No. VII.

SOREL, Aug. 10, 1834.

Private.

DEAR MR. MCGILL.

I must undertake answering your letter of yesterday to Captain Dyle, by assuring you that I shall regret your absence during my projected tour in the Townships, and gladly accept the offer of Mr. Thomson's company as

a *locum tenens*. It is my present intention to regulate my journey so as to reach Sherbrooke on or about the 1st of next month, and from thence to follow the route discovered by Mr. Russell last year, by the River St. Francis, and the Lakes and Waters in Ireland, &c., to Quebec.

I hope and trust that the malady with which it has pleased the Almighty again to visit this Province is now abating in malignity. From your silence on the subject of health, I infer that Mrs. McGill and you are both well. Sincerely wishing that you may so continue,

I remain, dear Mr. McGill,

Your very faithful servant,

(Signed) AYLMER.



No. VII!

From the Right Hon. the EARL of DALHOUSIE, &c.

D. CASTLE, 18th July, 1835.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your letter, dated in June, with enclosures, relating to the formation of The St. Andrew Society of Montreal, has this morning reached me; and, in the hope that my answer may yet reach the conveyance by which the Royal Commission proceed to Canada (now on the eve of departure), I hastily acknowledge it, with the assurance that I anxiously desire to be enrolled a member of it. Though absent, I do in heart contribute my best endeavour to the success of the objects it has in view; and you will confer on me the greatest obligation in letting me know wherein I can render myself useful as an individual, and that one a Scotchman, heart and soul!

I will instantly communicate with the Messrs. Robertson on the matter.

I agree with your opinion that nothing can be made by this Commission but a "Report," and the best that has yet been made is contained in

"Blackwood's Magazine" for June, (I think in May.)

The King *thinks* and *speaks* forcibly on the subject, but His Majesty's present ministers are made of inferior stuff. You in Canada must be firm and vigilant to weather this storm, which threatens to uproot the Constitution of England and Scotland; but I have undoubted confidence that this storm will be resisted firmly, and in time will subside in the mercy of Providence.

I rejoice to hear of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson's safe arrival in Montreal. I beg my kind compts. to both.

I am happy to say that Lady D. has benefitted greatly by a visit to Dr. Jephson, the Physician at Leamington.

She is again able to walk pretty stoutly, and I trust will yet grow in strength. I am as usual, well enough to creep about my farm, and content withal, though I do not look for good health now.

I get regularly the Montreal papers. I rejoice to observe the excellent feeling of patriotism in the British Population, and have no doubt that the great majority of the French classes are still loyal to the King and Constitution, though they have yielded to the Radical Shout of the present times; they little know the blessings they enjoy, comparatively with their fellow-men of other nations.

The hour of post hurries me to close, but I

cannot stop short without assuring you and all my friends near you, of my undiminished sincere regard for the Canadas and all its concerns. Pray present my kindest remembrances to Chief Justice and Mrs. Reid, and all my friends near you; they are, I know well, far too numerous to name; but I have also too many reasons to remember them individually ever to let them slip from my recollection.

Believe me, always with great truth,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) DALHOUSIE.

No. IX.

DALHOUSIE CASTLE,
10th April, 1836.

DEAR SIR,

I take leave to express to you and the Society of Montreal the thanks and acknowledgments I owe to them for having enrolled me as an honorary member of the Sons of St. Andrew in that city. I lament the circumstances of the times most deeply, but I admire heartily the union and loyalty which have been expressed by this Association.

I beg to be further permitted to add my contribution, £100, to the fund in support of any unfortunate emigrants who may come under the notice of the Society; and with every kind wish for the prosperity of the object it has in view,

I am, my dear sir,

Yours most truly and sincerely,

(Signed) DALHOUSIE.

Honble. P. McGill, Esq.,
Montreal.

No. X.

Private and Confidential.

CASTLE ST. LEWIS,
29th April, 1837.

DEAR SIR,

Connected as this quarter of the world is in Commercial concerns with England, it is impossible for us to observe what is passing in that country and the United States without considerable anxiety. As you remark, Canada has happily not as yet felt the pressure on the money market; at the same time there is sufficient cause to call forth every exertion that can be made to meet such an evil, should it unfortunately reach us. Under this impression,

and circumstanced as you are as President of the Montreal Bank, I cannot feel any surprise at the application you have made. It was indeed a natural course for you to take; and my only regret is, that I am unable to return such a definite answer to it as might lead to your immediate convenience. That the Public Servants will be paid, there cannot now be any doubt; but I do not expect that any positive instructions will be sent to me on this head until the measures under the consideration of the Imperial Parliament have further advanced. In this state of uncertainty I could not venture to hazard an opinion, which might have the effect of leaving you unprepared for any contingency.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours, very faithfully,

(Signed) GOSFORD.

The Honble. P. McGill, &c.



No. XI.

*From His Excellency Sir FRANCIS BOND HEAD,
Baronet, &c.*

Private.

KINGSTON, 24th March, 1838.

DEAR SIR,

It was my intention to have requested permission to dine with you on the day I arrived at Montréal, as I was very desirous to have had some conversation with you, but I have been so long detained at Toronto, and am so anxious to reach England, that I have determined to take my chance of going through the States; and I accordingly drop from hence to Waterloo to-morrow morning.

I left Toronto yesterday evening, at six o'clock, on board the Transit steamer, and landed at Bath to-day at 2 o'clock.

I remain, dear sir,

In great haste,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) F. B. HEAD.



No. XII.

*From His Excellency the Right Hon. C. POULET
THOMPSON, Governor-General, &c., &c.*

GOVT. HOUSE, 17th August, 1840.

Private.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am very unwilling to press you, more especially after the very handsome manner in which you met my proposal this morning; but if, upon reflection, you can undertake the duties of Mayor, I should be certainly obliged to you, as I think that it would give any Corporation a start which would insure its success.

I could always let you out at the end of a few months, if you found the labors too much.

Believe me,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) C. POULET THOMPSON.



No. XIII.

*From His Excellency the Right Honorable
LORD SYDENHAM, Governor-General, &c.*

Private and Confidential.

GOVT. HOUSE, 22d Aug., 1840.

MY DEAR SIR,

I must correct a mistake which I find I made in conversation with yourself and Mr. Moffatt just now. I have never seen Mr. Cuvillier, the father, of whom you spoke, except perhaps at the Levée. I find that he has not been at my house, having always pleaded ill health, and not going out, though his Sons always have.

I therefore heard nothing about his views, and those I stated to you were his Son's. I hear that he has lately had some communication with Debartch. Be cautious therefore.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) SYDENHAM.

Why will you not come in yourself and be Speaker? It is better than being in the Council ten times over.

No. XIV.

STEAM BOAT IN THE RIDEAU,
22d Sept., 1840.

MY DEAR SIR,

Major Hall has just put into my hands your letter of the 19th Sept., in which you communicate to me the kind intentions of the Citizens of Montreal to afford me a public reception, on my return to their City.

I feel greatly flattered and gratified by this proposal, and it is therefore with deep regret that I am compelled to decline availing myself of their kindness; but I have been seized with a severe fit of illness, which confines me to my couch; and it is very uncertain whether I may be able to quit it, except to be carried on shore. At all events I have no hope of being able to appear in a public ceremony for some days.

I shall be very much obliged to you, therefore, if you will take some means of publicly informing the inhabitants, who are disposed to confer this honor upon me, of my inability to accept it, and of assuring them at the same time of the gratitude I feel for their intentions.

Immediately on my return to Montreal, I will

appoint a time when I may have the pleasure of receiving the Corporation Address.

Believe me, my dear sir,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) SYDENHAM.

The Honble. P. McGill,
Mayor of the City of Montreal.

No. XV.

Confidential.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MONTREAL, 27th April, 1841.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that I am prepared to recommend your appointment to a seat in the Legislative Council of the Province of Canada, if you are willing to undertake the duties of that situation, of which I beg you to apprise me.

It is my duty also, in making the proposal, to state to you frankly, that I do so with the understanding that if you accept it, as I shall have great pleasure in hearing that you will, you will give your regular attendance in Parliament, and not permit the office to lapse into a merely

honorary distinction, imposing no duties on the possessor.

I am happy to have this opportunity of testifying my sense of your character and station in the Province, and I beg you to believe me,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

SYDENHAM.

Honorable Peter McGill.

No. XVI.

Private.

GOVT. HOUSE,
KINGSTON, 16th July, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR,

I must ask your indulgence for not having acknowledged your letter before, but it has been partly owing to my desire to see how *matters looked* before I gave you my opinion on one or two points which it refers to. Mr. Moffatt, however, having communicated to me a letter which he has received from you, in which you press very strongly, and apparently upon personal grounds, one of them, namely, the introduction of a change in the mode of levying the auction duty, I can no longer delay.

My opinion, from what I have seen during the session, is rather confirmed in the main, of its being very desirable, if possible, to avoid intro-

ducing the subject of the Montreal Incorporation this year in the Legislature. I think that advantage would be taken of our doing so, to press alterations which are inadmissible, and to raise questions which it is far safer to avoid. If, however, it is necessary, in order to enable you to raise the requisite funds for your improvements, that power should be obtained, authorizing you to borrow at a higher rate than 6 per cent., a Bill to that effect, and confined strictly to that, *might*, when brought in at the end of the session, perhaps avoid much debate, and not be liable to the objections I have stated. Still it would be better to avoid the risk, and I think, if you wait a little till the financial measures which I shall have to prepare are fairly before the public, the necessity for the measure will be obviated. But the extension of such a Bill to an alteration in the mode of levying the Auction Duty, would unquestionably raise all sorts of questions with regard to taxation, &c., and open the door to a vast deal of harassing discussion; and therefore, whatever it might have been necessary to do on the other point, I should certainly have most strongly dissuaded you from attempting to meddle with that part of the subject at present, if it were not for the strong manner in which in your letter to Mr. Moffatt you put the case. If, as you there say, your continuance in your Office as Mayor depends on its

being done, of course *it must be* ; however, I look on your continuing to fill that situation as essential to the well working, or indeed to the working at all, of the Montreal Act. So I shall of necessity be ready to give all the assistance in my power to such a measure, if you ask for it ; and will have a Bill presented by one of the City Members ; but, at the same time, I cannot but request you to reconsider your intention, and to weigh well the assurance which I give you of my opinion as to the danger of *mooting the question this year*.

I will do what I can for Mr. Rodier, when I have to add any new members to the Legislative Council, which is my intention at the end of the session. At present, in spite of the few members, it seems to me to work well enough, and I do not wish to increase it until then. Hitherto, indeed, that body has had little to do ; and for this reason I beg you to consult your own convenience about attending. Probably another fortnight will tire out the talkers in the Assembly, and then, when real business goes up to the Council, it will be well for you to be here. I will write to you, however, or make some one do so.

I am delighted to hear so good an account of my Godson, of whom I am very fond, as I beg you will assure Mrs. M'Gill, with my best regards.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) SYDENHAM.

No. XVII.

Private.

GOVT. HOUSE, KINGSTON,
27th July, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am very glad at both your determinations. I am satisfied, from what I hear of the conduct of the French Canadian party in the House of Assembly, that any Bill touching the Corporations would raise a storm, and, after all, not pass. On the other hand, your withdrawal from the Corporation would be fatal to it, and I am sure that it will be matter of very great gratification to you, hereafter, to look back upon the great improvements you have made in the city, and which, but for you, never could have been carried. The more I see of the working of the Assembly, the more I rejoice at the amount of Legislation which I proposed and carried through the Special Council. We should not have got a tittle of it in ten years; now, thank God, the obstructives cannot touch it; and if it wants mending, we may hold out for conditions at least.

I wish you were up here very much, for I should like to see you on a project for a Bank which I

have, and which, I am sure, is not understood with you at Montreal, especially by the Montreal Bank, who most unwisely oppose it. I am willing to give them excellent terms, better than they can make at present; whilst their Charter expires in 1842, and certainly shall *not* be renewed, except upon conditions which will be very different, indeed, from what the present one gives them. If they like to be obstinate, then, I think they will repent of it, for, let whatever be done about my Bank Scheme, the House will run most high in favor of taxing the issue of notes 3 or 4 per cent, for the benefit of the Province; and then what becomes of their privileges?

I think, if you were here, we could settle this very shortly; and I wish you were, for I shall be sorry to have to go to war with the Banks, from which, however, I shall not shrink, if they are unreasonable. Can you come up for a day or two? Come, if you return.

Give my best regards to Mrs. McGill, whom I depute to give a kiss to my godson, and believe me,

My Dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) SYDENHAM.



No. XVIII.

*From His Excellency Lieutenant-General, Sir R.
D. JACKSON, Administrator, &c., &c.*

Private.

KINGSTON, 14th December, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR,

I received this morning, only, your letter of the 10th, and will not delay one post in replying to it, although I cannot do so in a manner satisfactory either to your wishes or my own.

The appointment to which it refers was disposed of by Lord Sydenham's promise, and his death-bed injunction related to its fulfilment.

In my situation, this promise was imperative with me, so far as I can permit myself to act upon it; and I should not be doing justice to his memory, if I failed in recommending to Sir Charles Bagot, the confirmation of an appointment made under such circumstances.

I have had cast upon me a most invidious office; and uprightness of intention will scarcely

be allowed me, by many who may fairly disapprove of the selection made from the Candidates for Office. I have, however, endeavored to act under advice, for the benefit of the Province, and it will give me satisfaction to have any errors of judgment corrected by the future Governor-General.

I am, my dear sir,

Yours, very faithfully,

(Signed) R. D. JACKSON.

Honorable P. McGill.

No. XIX.

*From ROBT. MCKAY, Esq., Secretary St Andrew's
Society, &c.*

MONTREAL, Nov. 11, 1842.

SIR,

I have great pleasure in transmitting herewith a copy of the vote in your favor, unanimously passed at the meeting of the St Andrew's Society, held last evening.

I am commanded to express, on behalf of the Society, their deep regret that circumstances

should induce you to resign the office which you have so long and so worthily filled in the Society. It may be presumptuous in me to add that I concur most heartily in the opinion expressed by the Society, and that I hope that, at a future day, you may be induced again to accept the office, which I know the Society will at any time be proud that you should accept.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) ROBT. McKAY,
Secretary St. Andrew's Society.

Honble. P. McGill,
President St. Andrew's Society.

EXTRACT from the Journals of the St. Andrew's Society, Montreal, Nov. 10, 1842.

The November Quarterly Meeting was held this evening. * * *

On motion of Rev. Dr. MATHIESON, seconded by H. ALLAN, Esq. it was resolved, unanimously, —That the warmest thanks of the Society be voted to the Honorable Peter McGill, for the valuable services rendered by him to the Society, as

its President, since its formation, and that the Secretary communicate this vote to Mr McGill, expressing, at the same time, the regret of the Society on his determination to resign that office.

(A True Extract.)

(Signed)

ROBT. McKAY,
Secretary St Andw. Society.

No. XX.

From J. M. HIGGINSON, Esq. Secretary, &c., &c.

GOVT. HOUSE, Nov. 6, 1843.

DEAR SIR,

I am desired to say that the Governor-General is desirous of seeing you as soon as you can conveniently wait upon him.

I am, dear sir,

Yours, faithfully,

(Signed)

J. M. HIGGINSON.

Honble. P. McGill.

[N.B.—The object of the above communication was to offer me the appointment of Speaker of the Legislative Council.—P. MCGILL.]

No. XXI.

Complimentary Resolution by the Corporation of Montreal.

Extract from the Minutes of the proceedings in Council, at the City Hall, in the City of Montreal, on Tuesday the 29th November, 1842.

On motion of Alderman DE BLEURY, seconded by Councillor BOURRET, it was unanimously

Resolved,—That, whereas the present Council will, from and after to-morrow, cease to exist, the present moment is a fitting opportunity to convey to His Worship, the Mayor, the HONORABLE PETER MCGILL, the most sincere and unanimous thanks of the Members of this Council, for the very gentlemanly and courteous manner in which he has, at all times, conducted and performed the high and important duties connected with his office, as Mayor of this City; and it is with deep regret they have learnt that he is determined not to be put in nomination at the ensuing Municipal Election, to sit again at this Board, where his acknowledged ability and services have been so pre-eminently useful; and that the loss of such invaluable services cannot fail to be felt by the Citizens generally.

(A True Extract.)

(Signed)

J. P. SEXTON,
City Clerk.

Mr McKell has left two letters
both Affairs in the Canadian
Register stationed in the City -
and the only other man
related he has is James
McFutcher Esq of
Toronto.